Sick Oil Mills

†906. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA': Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that about fifty per cent oil mills of the country are lying closed;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the working mills are being able to utilise only forty per cent of their capacity;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) what steps Government are taking to revive this industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SBPBK SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) to (d) Consequent upon de-licensing of the vegetable oil industry with effect from 25th July, 1991, no authentic information about the number of oil units operating is available. According to available information the status of the Vegetable Oil Indistry is summarised below:

S. No	Type of Oil Industry	No. of Units	Annual Capacity (Lakh MT)	Capacity Utilisation
1.	Oilseed Crushing Units	1,50,000 (Approx.)	425 (In terms of seeds)	10—30%
2.	Solvent Extraction Units	812	345 (In terms of Oil bearing material)	34%
3.	Refineries	300 (Approx.)	50 (In terms of Oil)	32%
4.	Vanaspati Units	201	32.5 (In terms of Vanaspati)	33%

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

Some of the reasons attributable to the unsatisfactory capacity utilisation and part closure of the vegetable oil industry are :—

1. Unrestricted growth of the industry consequent upon de-licensing of the vegetable oil industry;
2. Inadequate availability of raw materials;
3. Lack of technology upgradation;
4. Cheap availability of oil in the International market.

(e) The steps being taken by the Govt. to revive oil industry include :

(i) Increasing the production of oilseeds and oil palm through implementation of centrally sponsored schemes of Oilseeds Development and Oil Palm Development programmes.

(ii) Improving capacity utilisation.

(iii) Inducing the industry to improve technology.

(iv) Making indigenous product competitive with respect to Internationally available oil.

DMS Depots at Vasant Kunj

907. SHRI SURYABHAN PATIL VAHADANE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of DMS depots functioning in Vasant Kunj area;

(b) whether booths have been constructed for this purpose;

(c) if so, the places and Sectors/Blocks which are covered to feed the supply of DMS milk of the residents of the colony just like the Mother Dairy Booths; and

(d) if the reply of the above is in negative, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) to (d) At present